

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****September 14, 2021**

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SUBJECT: UPDATE ON I-35W DESIGNATION TO HONOR ATATIANA JEFFERSON

On August 17, 2021, the City Council adopted a resolution supporting the designation of a portion of I-35W within Fort Worth city limits for Atatiana Jefferson (Resolution 5444-08-2021). I-35 has an existing designation in Texas as the Purple Heart Trail. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) notified staff that the existing designation would not allow TxDOT to approve an additional designation and post any signage on the I-35W main lanes. The City would only be allowed to rename the I-35W frontage roads. The City is not allowed to post signage on the I-35W main lanes. We have shared this information with James Smith, who requested that the City support the I-35W designation.

If the City Council would like to rename the frontage roads, this would require approximately 700 property owners to change their addresses from North/South Freeway to Atatiana Jefferson Freeway.

Properties affected

District 2	50
District 4	41
District 6	124
District 7	129
District 8	229
District 9	<u>130</u>
TOTAL	703

The City would cover the cost of frontage road sign replacement, estimated at \$75,000.

Alternatively, one or more state legislators may sponsor a designation bill that would allow Atatiana Jefferson signage on the I-35W main lanes. This would not affect local addresses. The Tom Landry Highway designation on I-30, for example, was designated by the state legislature. The Texas legislature is able to add designations to existing ones. The next regular legislative session is scheduled to begin in January 2023.

For any questions on this report, please contact Dana Burghdoff, Assistant City Manager, at 817-392-8018.

David Cooke
City Manager